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To: Members of the Senate Rules Committee
From: Rhett Lawrence, Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter
Date: May 20, 2019
RE: Senate Bill 723

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee: My name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. On behalf of the more than 25,000 Sierra Club members in Oregon, I am pleased to submit these comments on Senate Bill 723.

The Sierra Club supports SB 723 and we believe that this is common-sense legislation to ban the gruesome practice of coyote killing contests in Oregon. We endorse the comments submitted to Rules Committee members on our coalition's behalf on May 19. Our organization also signed onto the detailed coalition comments dated February 21, 2019, already in the record on OLIS. I will not repeat the substance of those comments other than to stress these main points from that letter:

- Coyote killing contests contravene modern, science-based wildlife management principles, and could damage the reputation of Oregon sportsmen and sportswomen
- The indiscriminate killing of coyotes will not reduce or mitigate conflicts with humans, pets, or livestock
- The mass killing of coyotes in these contests will not protect native wildlife or increase game populations
- Lethal control of coyotes ultimately leads to an increase in their population
- Killing coyotes negatively impacts sensitive ecosystems
- Indiscriminately killing large numbers of coyotes is fundamentally inhumane

For these reasons, the Sierra Club supports Senate Bill 723 and we urge Committee members to do the same. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony and please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance to the Committee.